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GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

AFRICA.

THE FOREST REGION OF MOUNT KENIA.—Mr. E. Hutchins, Chief Conservator of Forests, and Mr. Ross, Director of Public Works in British East Africa, have recently returned from a tour around the Kenia forests and a visit to the glaciers. Kenia is the only snowy mountain in the Old World lying exactly on the equator. Its height is 17,150 feet; it has 15 glaciers and it is the culminating point of the richest part of British East Africa. The following facts concerning these latest studies on the mountain are condensed from the account published by *Nature* (Nov. 26, 1908).

A journey occupying nearly two months was made almost completely around the mountain and for the most part at the Alpine altitude of 12,000 feet. The purpose was to ascertain the extent and value of the mountain's great forest girdle. It was most convenient to travel at this altitude to avoid the tussock grass, which grows thickly in bunches three to four feet high; and progress through this is not easy in the wet season when it is covered with half-frozen rain and hail. This grass extends above the upper forest region; and above the tussock is a zone of shorter grass, with the heath tree, *Erica arborea,* supplying firewood and marking the upper limit of tree growth on the mountain.

A persistent northeast air current was found above the mountain at about 20,000 feet. Between 7,000 and 14,000 feet the atmosphere was singularly calm and serene. Below 7,000 feet and on the plains away from the mountain the southeast trades blew strongly by day. On the northern highlands, at about 10,000 feet elevation, the climate was curiously mild and equable. It was not only pleasant and healthful, but also very exhilarating. There was little or no frost, the small amount of rain came mostly at night, and by day the equatorial sun was usually screened by a thick mantle of cloud. This elevated plateau is very beautiful and is eminently a white man's country.

The whole of the Kenia Alpine region is healthful and invigorating, but there is a great contrast for half the year between the wet and misty southern slopes and the dry, bracing plateau country of northern Kenia. Hail was often experienced and daily on the wetter south side of the mountain. There was only one snowstorm, the snow falling in light flakes for several hours. For some miles around the glaciers a light mantle of snow covered the ground, but it rapidly melted under the influence of a little sun and the warmer air prevailing during the day at the higher altitudes. The peak was bare of snow on the northeastern side, presumably on account of this comparatively warm upper current. These observations have peculiar value, as they were made at the wettest time of the year—April, May and June. The explorers found, at Alpine elevations, the southern side in April and May dripping with moisture and the air nearly saturated with it most of the time. A part of this side was too wet for the upper traverse and the forest had to be mapped from below only.

Everywhere else the forest was examined from above and below, and sample areas of the timber were measured. The forest is practically continuous around the mountain, with only one break about eight miles wide. The average width of the forest belt is from six to nine miles. On the north and west sides, where the forest belt is thinnest, the quality is best, consisting largely of cedar, which is found only in the drier forest. Ibean camphor is abundant in the great recess in the mountain on its southeastern side, but cedar fails there. In the drier parts of the mountain the bamboo belt is much reduced in breadth, is frequently broken and sometimes absent.

The most valuable timbers are Ibean camphor on the wet, southeastern side, and cedar, *Juniperus procera,* on the drier western and northern sides. The former is a timber of exceptional value. Its botanical name has not yet been determined, as its flower has now been seen for the first time; but the cedar is a loftier and far more abundant tree than the camphor. It runs up in straight stems to over 100 feet, and one tree was found on northern Kenia nearly 12 feet in diameter. The forest is richly stored with cedar, not only with the living tree but also with the dry and sound timber of past ages. Fire, however, does great damage in these cedar forests. The most abundant timber is yellowwood, *Podocarpus thunbergii,* var. *milanjianus,* which differs little from the well-known yellowwood of South Africa. The finest timber is in the southeastern recess, but this is largely composed of hardwoods, which have not the same value as the camphor and the conifers.

DEFORESTATION AND CLIMATE IN MAURITIUS.—On the Island of Mauritius there has been much deforestation since 1850. In that year about one-third of the area of the island was covered with trees. In 1880 forests covered only about one-tenth. Several authorities have expressed the opinion that this deforestation has brought about a change in the climate of Mauritius. This subject has recently been investigated by Mr. A. Walter, chief assistant of the Royal Alfred Observatory, who has made a thorough examination of all available data in order to find evidence either for or against the view of an influence of deforestation upon climate ("On the Influence of Forests on Rainfall and the Probable Effect of Déboisement on Agriculture in Mauritius"). The smoothed rainfall curves for 1860-1907 seem to Mr. Walter to give evidence that the cutting of the forests may have had some effect, although a very small one, on the total rainfall, but that the effect has been greater in the case of the number of rainy days. The rainy days in the districts denuded of forests have been decreased by about thirty a year, but under such conditions that the amount due to these thirty days is only about 6 to 10 inches, whereas the annual variation of the total rainfall is often 60 inches. Before deforestation, "rain fell on many calm afternoons, because the presence of the moisture transpired by the trees was sufficient, by increasing the humidity and decreasing the pressure, to cause slight showers." The rains thus caused are, however, very local, and the author of this paper does not recommend any great work or expense in planting trees with the idea of improving the climate generally.
R. DEC. W.

AMERICA.

THE SOCIETY'S GEOGRAPHICAL EXHIBITION.—During the past few months the Society has received from the leading European countries a considerable number of specimens of the wall maps, atlases and text-books used abroad in geographical education. The collection was made in the belief that the examination and study of such material would be educational and helpful to American teachers of geography, and that the work would be in line with the efforts of many of our foremost teachers whose influence is now continuously felt in behalf of the further improvement of geographical instruction in our country. The collection was confined to foreign material, as it was especially desired to give our teachers and students an opportunity to examine typical specimens of school maps and atlases which are not easily accessible to them.

The collection is not a large one, but it fully represents the best grades of school wall maps, atlases, etc., produced in Europe. The German wall maps, for example, are among those in use not only in the middle and higher schools, but also in the university lecture courses.

The exhibition was opened in the house of the Society on Dec. 21. The catalogue of the material is intended to be helpful in the examination of the exhibits. While a special invitation has been extended to teachers, any person who is interested is invited to visit the exhibition rooms. After the exhibition closes in New York the collection will be seen in other educational centres of the country.

INTERPRETATION OF TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS.—The U. S. Geological Survey has just issued as Professional Paper 60 a report entitled "The Interpretation of Topographic Maps," by Professor R. D. Salisbury of the University of Chicago and Mr. W. W. Atwood of the Survey. The purpose is to bring the sheets of the Topographic Map more prominently before teachers of geography and geology. The volume contains about 170 sheets from the maps and folios of the Survey, some of them accompanied by photographs or sketches of various features mapped in contours. Each map represents some special topographic type and the maps as a whole illustrate all the more common and important phases of topography. Nearly every State and Territory is represented in the collection. The text accompanying the maps describes the development of the phases of topography shown, and is prepared for those who are not familiar with such maps, but who understand the meaning of technical terms used in recent text-books of geology and physiography. It is believed that the text is sufficiently full to enable any one with such knowledge to understand the maps and that the study of the whole series will fit the student to understand and interpret other maps.

THE WATER RESOURCES INVESTIGATION.—The annual *Report* of the Director of the U. S. Geological Survey, now in press, emphasizes the need of continuing the work of determining the extent and character of the water resources of the country. The Director says that the work done in this line is not commensurate with similar surveys in many European countries. If we were to study this question as thoroughly as is being done in Switzerland, we should appropriate $11,000,000 a year, which is 110 times as much as our present annual appropriation.

The average annual damage by floods in this country is about $100,000,000. In many parts of the United States the wise expenditure of one year's flood-loss in these regions would prevent future floods. In other parts of the country the cost of prevention would probably equal the flood loss for two or more years. Most of the rivers are inter-State and the prevention of floods can be accomplished only under Federal authority.

The Government has expended several hundred million dollars for river improvement and as much or more must probably be disbursed in the next decade.

All engineers agree that a thorough investigation of rivers is necessary to decide how these improvements shall be made.

The country is spending $40,000,000 in the construction of irrigation systems, but whether there is water for these projects cannot be determined by measurements made over a short period of years. When work was begun in 1902 the Government was able to proceed at once with certain projects, because the Survey had the results of stream measurements showing that sufficient water was available for the initial projects. It would obviously be unjust to charge the cost of general investigations over all the arid West against specific projects.

The Director also calls attention to the fact that over 80,000,000 acres of the best agricultural lands in the country are unproductive because they need drainage. The investigation of water resources, and topographic mapping are as necessary for the success of this work as for the success of irrigation enterprises.

NEW OIL FIELD IN MEXICO.—In the State of Vera Cruz, sixty-seven miles from Tampico and in the gulf coastal plain region, a phenomenal oil find has been made, the development of which was accompanied by some remarkable results noted by R. H. Millward, American Vice-Consul at Tampico, Mexico, in the *Nat. Geog. Magazine,* Nov., 1908, pp. 803-805. The two wells now drilled are at San Gerónimo and reach depths of 2,000 feet and 1,800 feet. In the 1,800-foot well oil was discovered under such pressure that it could not be controlled. The deluge of oil became ignited from the boiler fire and approximately 60,000 to 70,000 barrels of oil were consumed daily from July 4th to August 30th, when the fire was finally conquered. The total cost of development work and loss by fire aggregates more than $3,000,000. Newspapers could be read at night by the light of the column of fire a distance of 17 miles, headlines at 33 miles, and ships' officers reported the light visible for more than 100 miles at sea. The oil is now impounded in a lake of great extent and will soon be properly controlled and delivered by pipe lines. This discovery is of unusual importance for two reasons: first, it occurs near the seacoast whence ocean shipments in oil vessels can easily be made from Tampico, to which port pipe lines from the wells can easily be constructed; second, the coal deposits of Mexico unfortunately do not occur near the great railway transportation lines and have been but little developed in the past. Coal is received in certain quantities from the United States, and the cost of all fuel is inordinately high. The economic value of such finds is correspondingly enhanced, especially as many of the railway locomotives of Mexico are now operated with oil fuel obtained in large quantities from the Texas and California oil fields. I. B.

THE ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF ENTRE RIOS.—The Argentine province of Entre Rios lies north of Buenos Aires, between the Paraná and Uruguay rivers, a delta region with great pastoral and agricultural possibilities. Its financial and economical conditions are described in the annual message of its Governor to the Legislature and reported in the U. S. Daily Consular and Trade Reports (Oct. 17, 1908, No. 3307). A ferry-boat railway recently completed places Entre Rios in close communication with Buenos Aires and greatly facilitates commerce between them. The cattle of the region are unfortunately still of inferior quality and suffer much from the ticks and red murrain. The first serious effort to reduce the effects of cattle diseases is being made by the director of the National Bacteriological Institute, Professor Lignieres, who will travel through the most important pastoral regions and lecture on the means to be adopted to prevent and cure the diseases. The province has about 3,200,000 head of cattle, 7,000,000 head of sheep, and 500,000 horses.

Their products, with those of the poultry business, are estimated at about $15,000,000 a year. These statistics and estimates are a sufficient index of the importance of this rapidly growing eastern province of the Argentine.

The nearness of the province to the sea and its eastern position far from the Andes alike favour increased rainfall from the monsoons of summer and the cyclonic rains of the westerlies in winter. In consequence, agriculture thrives without irrigation. About a million and a half acres are under cultivation, of which nearly one-half is devoted to wheat, a half million acres to linseed, and the rest to alfalfa, peanuts, vines, and fruits. The production of wheat is estimated at a ton per two and a half acres. The total value of the agricultural products is about $18,000,000. The total population numbers nearly a half million, of which 70 per cent., an unusual number for Argentina, live in the country.

I. B.

THE PASTORAL INDUSTRY OF BRAZIL.—The two great crops of Brazil, coffee and rubber, have drawn public attention away from cattle raising, which promises to be one of the chief industries of that country in the near future. Thousands of square miles of fine grazing lands occur in the southern part of the republic and extend north to the uplands along the southern tributaries of the Amazon. In spite of the advantage of these well-watered pastures, Brazil has until recent years been a large importer of dairy products, particularly butter and cheese. Even to-day such is the case in the northern parts of the country, where either the climate makes stock-raising and dairying impossible or the energies of the population are wholly absorbed in other industries. In early colonial time the inhabitants of this tract obtained their subsistence very largely from the more or less wild herds of native cattle. Although the industry has since then increased in an absolute sense it has declined relatively, being quite overshadowed by coffee and rubber. The great crises which the latter industries are experiencing have turned Government attention to other agricultural activities, the diversification of crops, and the encouragement of the pastoral industries by the importation of blooded stock for better breeding results.

The demand for dairy products in the large cities has also encouraged the extension and improvement of dairying and cattle raising. (See Daily Consular and Trade Report for Nov. 6, 1908.) Less than ten years ago it was all but impossible to buy a glass of fresh milk in any shop in Rio de Janeiro. Cows were driven through the streets and milked at the doors of the people who wished to buy. The custom persists in some cities to-day. Butter for the use of the inhabitants was imported in some quantities from the remote interior. Even at present the meat supply of the cities of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo is derived from the herds grazing over the thinly populated and all but unknown States of Goyaz and Matto Grosso, whence the cattle are driven for more than a thousand miles, sometimes to make connections with railroads, sometimes to be shipped on river boats down tributaries of the River Plate system and up the coast to Rio. Cattle-raising in these States is conducted upon a very extended scale. There are several ranches in the southern part of Matto Grosso that are hundreds of square miles in extent, supporting herds of 120,000 to 200,000 head. Within the borders of Matto Grosso alone there are not less than 3,000,000 cattle, and Goyaz has but slightly less.

Difficult transportation, in a region where the high temperatures make cattle-driving over these long distances precarious, is one of the first things to be overcome. The situation is not at all unlike that in Texas and Oklahoma after the Civil War, when cattle were driven over long trails to the termini of the railroads building west of St. Louis. The Northwest Railroad of Brazil, now in construction, will be the first to tap the region and will bring the grazing lands of western Brazil within reach of the markets of eastern Brazil. The effect will be further to diminish the imports of meat and dairy products to the correspondingly greater encouragement of the grazing industry of Brazil.

The herds of Brazil are subject to peculiar difficulties, in spite of the absence of inclement weather and the year-round grazing that is possible. In Bahia and along the coast, even beyond the mouth of the Amazon, there are frequent and prolonged droughts (due to the correspondence of direction of trade winds and coastal uplands), and these occasion heavy losses both to farmers and to cattlemen. The greatest obstacle common to all grazing lands in the country is the many cattle diseases. In Minas Geraes in 1905 official figures indicated losses amounting to 426,374 head, as compared with 303,918 slaughtered for food purposes.

I. B.

ASIA.

PEKING AND CANTON RAILROAD.—While the proposed railroad between Peking and Canton was completed between the Capital and Hankow, 753 miles, towards the end of 1905, little has yet been done towards the extension of the line south of the Yangtse River to Canton. A Chinese imperial edict issued on July 18 last, forwarded to Washington by Minister Rockhill, directed Chang Chih-tung, Grand Councillor, to assume absolute control of the building of the Hankow-Canton section, adding that the divergent policies advocated by those in charge of the work had prevented substantial progress in construction and an official was now appointed in supreme control so that the line might be completed without needless delay.

PLAGUE AND CLIMATE.—The conclusions regarding the relation of plague to weather conditions are almost as numerous as are those who have investigated this subject, but it is clear that plague is not strictly limited by isotherms, and that meteorological conditions do not alone spread it, or control it. The Indian Plague Commission, a few years ago, concluded that there is no direct relation between plague and climate. Hirsch had previously stated that the relation is unsettled. In the tropics, however, the disease has, as a general rule, had a cool-season, and in higher latitudes a warm-season, maximum. On the whole, plague has chiefly prevailed under moderately high temperatures and moisture conditions, and where the soil is damp and the ground low. These facts do not, however, necessarily point to cause and effect. A recent report on plague investigations in India (*Journal of Hygiene,* Vol. VIII, No. 2, May, 1908), states the following conclusions: (1) A plague epidemic is checked when the mean daily temperature passes above 80° Fahr., and especially when it reaches 85° or 90.° (2) A mean temperature above 80° affects the conditions to which the plague bacillus is subjected in the stomach of the flea. At high temperature, about 90,°

the plague bacilli disappear from the stomach of the flea much more quickly than at lower temperatures, namely, between 70° and 80.° (3) A plague epidemic may, however, come to an end when the temperature is most suitable. Other factors must, therefore, be present in these cases. R. DEC. W.

OCEANIA.

DR. DORSEY'S MISSION.—Dr. George A. Dorsey, Curator of anthropology in the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, left London at the beginning of this year on an eighteen months' scientific mission in the South Pacific and on the coasts of Asia. Letters from him which have been noticed in the press, say that he had arrived in Manila from German New Guinea, having called at the Caroline Islands on his way. While in New Guinea he visited more than thirty Papuan villages between Friedrich Wilhelmshafen and the Dutch boundary, including several villages of the Schouten and other islands along the coast. He also ascended the Kaiserin Augusta River for 100 miles, visiting villages whose inhabitants were totally unacquainted with white men except by tradition. In this part of his journey, Dr. Dorsey made a valuable collection of more than 2,000 specimens, mostly in New Guinea. He studied the museums of Melbourne and Sydney, and crossed Bongainville Island. On the 11th of December he landed at San Francisco on his way home.

POLAR.

CAPTAIN AMUNDSEN'S NEXT EXPEDITION.—This explorer expects to leave Norway in the spring of 1910 for the purpose of putting his vessel into the ice of the Arctic Ocean north of Point Barrow, Alaska, with the expectation of drifting for a number of years across the polar area. Nansen's ship, the *Fram,* has been placed at his disposal, and King Haakon has headed the public subscription for his enterprise with a donation of $5,000. In a lecture which Captain Amundsen recently delivered in Christiania he is reported to have said in part:

> We shall start for San Francisco, going around Cape Horn. At San Francisco coal and provisions will be taken on board. From there we will set out for Cape Barrow, where I hope to arrive in July or August. From Cape Barrow I shall start with the smallest possible crew. The course of the drift ice is northwest. We shall try to enter the compact ice at the most favorable point to begin our drift over the polar basin, which I calculate will last four or five years. During all that time we shall make oceanographic and other observations, through which I hope to solve some of the yet unexplained problems of the polar regions.
>
> We have apparatus now by which it is possible to obtain samples not only of the surface of the bottom, but also of the underlying strata at a depth of two metres or more. Perhaps of even greater importance, however, is the examination of the temperature of the water in the different depths of the sea. We are now able to measure it with exactness at any depth. We know now of three different water-bulks in the polar basin; they represent at the least three different current systems, which are not yet sufficiently examined. We will be able to do it through the pendulum-current measure apparatus of Nansen and the propeller-current-measure apparatus of Dr. Ekborn, both invented within the last four or five years.
>
> Another insufficiently examined problem is the existence of tidal waves and tidal currents in the polar basin, a question of great importance, not only to science, but to navigation as well. Other problems to be examined are the influence of the winds on the currents of the sea, the quantity of air and gases in the sea and their importance to organic life, the role of the light in the different depths below the ice, and a series of further questions which will elucidate the physiology of the sea and the circulation of organic life.
>
> We have no ambition to make a record in the struggle for reaching the geographical pole. The object of my expedition is to scientifically examine the polar basin, its bottom and configuration and the different oceanographic problems in connection with it.

ANTARCTIC METEOROLOGY OF THE "DISCOVERY" EXPEDITION.—The meteorological work of the British National Antarctic Expedition, 1901-1904, has been published as *Meteorology, Part I. Observations at Winter Quarters and on Sledge Journeys, with Discussions by Various Authors* (London, Published by the Royal Society, 1908). The *Discovery* wintered in lat. 77° 50′ 50″ South, long. 166° 55′ 45″ East. The observations are unique in that they were continuous over a period of two years. The mean temperature was —1.7°. The lowest mean temperature for any one month was —21.1° (July, 1903), and the highest mean temperature 26.1° (January, 1903). The absolute maximum was 39° in the first year and 42° in the second, both in December. The absolute minimum was —50.5° in the first year and —58.5° in the second. The lowest temperature actually noted was at Cape Armitage, May 16, 1903, when the spirit minimum registered —67.7°. Fluctuations of temperature were rapid and violent at all seasons. An increase of temperature, especially in the winter, was associated with a wind from the pole. The summers were very cold, only a few days giving a mean temperature above freezing. This low summer temperature is distinctly characteristic of the Antarctic, and is brought out in all the reports of the recent Antarctic expeditions. The surface winds were chiefly easterly, as they were on the German ship *Gauss*.

R. DEC. W.

DR. CHARCOT'S VOYAGE TO THE ANTARCTIC.—The Antarctic expedition in the steamer *Pourquoi Pas* arrived at Rio de Janeiro on Oct. 12, where it remained for a week. The scientific staff was honoured with a reception by the Geographical Society. At last accounts the expedition was on the way down the coast to Buenos Aires (which it left on Nov. 23), Punta Arenas and Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego, and from this mission station Dr. Charcot expected to go south to Loubet Land, which he discovered in 1905, and then proceed further south to Alexander Land.

DR. FREDERICK A. COOK.—When Commander Peary's auxiliary steamer *Erik* returned home last fall she brought Mr. Randolf Francke, who had been Dr. Cook's only white companion at Annatok on the northwest coast of Greenland during the winter of 1907-08. Annatok is nearly opposite the northern entrance to Smith Sound, about 20 miles north of Etah. Dr. Cook had left New York in the summer of 1907 ostensibly on a hunting trip, but when his vessel returned it was reported that his real purpose was to attempt to reach the North Pole.

Mr. Francke says that on March 3 last Dr. Cook left his camp at Annatok with eight Eskimos, four sledges, twelve dog teams, and a good supply of food, and went inland in Grinnell Land towards the Arctic Ocean. The only news heard of him later was a letter dated March 7, two weeks after his start, telling Francke that if he did not return to Annatok by early June to go back to New York at the first opportunity. He added that he was on the west coast of Grinnell Land, making his way north. As he did not return early in June, Francke attempted to reach Cape York in the south, as he might meet a whaler there; but he was compelled to turn back owing to the bad travelling and was picked up by the *Erik* at Etah. Nothing is known of Dr. Cook's fortunes, but Capt. Bartlett of the *Erik* thinks he is probably safe in Ellesmere Land, where there is plenty of game, including musk oxen.

VARIOUS.

AMONG THE PAPERS read at the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, on Nov. 17 and 18, was one by Henry F. Osborn on "The Close of the Cretaceous and Beginning of the Eocene in the Hell Creek Region of Montana," based on explorations between 1902 and 1908; one by Alexander Agassiz on "The Work of the U. S. Fish Commission Ship *Albatross*"; and one by C. R. Van Hise on "The Phosphates of the Soil."

MR. AND MRS. WALDEMAR JOCHELSON are on their way to the Aleutian Islands to make ethnological studies under the auspices of the Imperial Russian Geographical Society. They were both members of the Jesup North Pacific expedition, and before departing on their latest journey spent the month of October in this city making studies of some of the Alaskan material in the American Museum of Natural History; and Mr. Jochelson also consulted the literature of the subject in the library of the American Geographical Society. They intend, after completing their work in the Aleutian Islands, to devote a year to similar studies in Kamchatka.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY, the Royal Geographical Society and Trinity House will defray the expense of a memorial to the late Sir Leopold McClintock in Westminster Abbey.

A COMMITTEE of the British Empire League in London has been appointed to have charge of the movement for the erection of a monument in that city to commemorate the great services to the Empire of Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator and explorer.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, in reply to an invitation sent him by the President of the Royal Geographical Society, has promised to address the Society after his arrival in England from his African journey, about April, 1910.

THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—A Regular Meeting of the Society was held at the Engineering Societies' Building, No. 29 West Thirty-ninth Street, on Tuesday, November 24, 1908, at 8.30 o'clock P. M.

President Huntington in the chair.

The following persons, recommended by the Council, were elected to Fellowship:

Rufus Lewis Perry,
Edmund Mortimer,
M. M. Campbell,
George W. Wickersham,
Sandon Perkins,
Harry V. Radford,
A. Benedetti d'Altomonte,
Fanning C. T. Beck,
Carroll Bryce,
Howard Crosby Butler,
Henry Brevoort Cannon.

The President, coming forward, spoke as follows:

"MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It is my privilege to present to the American Geographical Society this evening a brother geographer, of whose work we all know something, and whose reputation makes his presence among us, not only a personal gratification to each of us, but a personal honor.

Dr. Albrecht Penck is the Professor of Geography in the University of Berlin; Director of the Geographical Institute of the Museum of Oceanography. His life has been dedicated to the study of geology and geography and he is among the foremost authorities on these sciences. At the age of 20 he explored the unstratified deposits of North Germany and the glaciers of Norway, and later pursued the study of glaciation in the German Alps. In 1883 he settled in Munich, and in that same year travelled in Scotland and to the Pyrenees, where he examined the evidences of the Ice Age. In 1885 he accepted the chair of Physical Geography in the University of Vienna. To this time belong his labours on the influence of climate on the surface of the earth and on the men of the Ice Age. In 1891 at the International Geographical Congress at Berne, he proposed the plan of a map of the world on the scale of 1:1,000,000, and was charged with the supervision of the work, since steadily continued. We may judge from the works of such a man how vague are the borderlands of the science of geography, how vast the field they may be made to touch upon and to comprehend. The great geographer must be first a great scientist and his grasp of his subject is bounded only by the limitations of genius itself.

In these days, it is the peculiar privilege of those who live closely within the walls of civilization, to come easily to a friendship and understanding with the adventurous ones who give their lives in the cause of knowledge. To-night we are fortunate in meeting one who has looked with the calm insight of science upon places charged with the older mysteries of the earth; who has returned to us moved, yet undismayed, to set before us calmly the nobler secrets of nature, and with that sublime truth which is the heritage of the scientist."

President Huntington then introduced Dr. Penck, who addressed the Society on "The Origin of the Alps." Illustrations by lantern-slides were shown.

On motion, the Society adjourned.

OBITUARY.

Dr. Otis Tufts Mason.—This eminent anthropologist, widely known to students of that science, and Head Curator of the Department of Anthropology in the U. S. National Museum, died in Washington, November 5, at the age of 70 years.

NEW MAPS.

AFRICA.

Algeria.—Département d'Oran. Carte des Voies de Communication. Scale, 1:400,000 or 6.3 statute miles to an inch. With inset of Sud Oranais, scale, 1:2,000,000, or 31.56 statute miles to an inch. Dressée par ordre de M. C. Jonnart, Gouverneur Général. Département d'Oran, 1908.

Shows in colours, towns, villages, colonization centres, wide and narrow gauge railroads in operation, in construction or projected, national highways and common roads, river navigation and lighthouses with radii of illumination. Distances on rail and national routes are marked at every 10 kilometers.